

Commission Notes



A publication of the Indiana Arts Commission

February 2002

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The arts in Indiana: a history of diversity and leadership

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to share some thoughts with you as we begin a new year of working to serve the arts of Indiana.

At previous Commission meetings, I have stated some personal goals for the IAC under my tenure as chairman, and it is one of these goals that I wish to comment on here; specifically, it is the goal of expanded participation in the arts and the activities of the IAC by the minority communities around the state.

The sources of our art and the participation by those who enjoy art have always reached across racial and ethnic boundaries. But the sharing of these various art expressions and the recognition of excellence in so many diverse settings has never been as broad and inclusive as we might hope.

Therefore I will work to have the IAC continue to increase awareness and exposure of the art and of the artists of our vibrant and creative minority communities.



Arts educator Dr. David Baker received an Indiana Governor's Arts Award and later served as an IAC commissioner.



The late Walter Blackburn with wife and civic leader Alpha Blackburn.

This is not to say that the IAC has not been active in these endeavors in the past. The Commission has been blessed by the dedication of



Former Commissioner Hurley Goodall, Muncie, and wife Fredine. Goodall was instrumental in establishing the IAC Cultural Trust Fund.



India Cruse-Griffin, Richmond



Ronald J. Stratten, Indianapolis

service from such people as Fred Wilson, David Baker, the late Walter Blackburn, Marianita Hicks-Porterfield, former State Representative Hurley Goodall, and current commissioners India Cruse-Griffin, Ronald J. Stratten and Louis Ortiz. And every year we have many, many minority volunteers serving on our grant panels and committees. The arts in Indiana are stronger because of the contributions of all these folks.

Also, I do not want to leave out recognition of the talents and contributions of such artists as Avery Brooks, the late Larry Leggett, Ron Glass, the Hampton Family, Etheridge Knight, the late J.J. Johnson, and George Irving Shirley, all of whom have brought



The Hampton Family received the Indiana Governor's Arts Award in 1991.



Stage and screen actor Avery Brooks (c) received a 2001 Indiana Governor's Arts Award from Gov. Frank O'Bannon and First Lady Judy O'Bannon

honor to our state and have themselves been recipients of the Indiana Governor's Arts Awards.

February is Black History Month, and while I would encourage all of you to take time to reflect in this special month upon the contributions so many African-Americans have made to the arts in Indiana, I would encourage you even more strongly to be aware of, to recognize and to celebrate the contributions of these, and other artists of color throughout the entire year.

Best wishes for a great 2002!

Will Clark
Chair, Indiana Arts Commission

Indiana artist brings closure to emotional scars of Sept. 11

Like many arts organizations around the nation, the Tippecanoe Arts Federation in Lafayette, IN recognized the power of the arts in healing from a traumatic event such as September 11, 2001 and wanted to share that with their community..

The IAC's Regional Arts Partner for west central Indiana announced a call for artists to create images for an exhibition of works related to this national disaster. But no amount of planning could prepare them for the impact this exhibition would have, particularly on one family..

"One of the artists, Dan Annarino, arbitrarily picked a name and a face from internet publications about the victims and painted this



Portrait of Thomas Hines by Hoosier artist Dan Annarino



Artists from throughout west-central Indiana created pieces for the Arts Heal exhibition at the TAF gallery

portrait," explained Suzie Coles, TAF regional services coordinator.

When a local television station came to the TAF gallery space, the reporter preparing the story became very interested in the painting of Thomas Hines and researched biographical information by contacting Hines' family in New York.

"Since then, both the artist and TAF have had several communications with the Hines family," Coles said. "Dan is sending them the



images submitted by Tippecanoe Arts Federation

painting when the show comes down and TV18 is sending them the taped interview."

Coles said the experience has been a moving one for her and her staff.

"The family commented that this portrait and exhibit have given them a sense of closure, even from 1,000 miles away," Coles said. "Never underestimate the power of the arts to move and communicate."

Arts Trust license plate records strong 2001 sales

If you've noticed more Arts Trust license plates on the road these days, it is not your imagination but rather the result of a very strong sales year in 2001.

According to figures recently released by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, a total of 2,027 Arts Trust plates were purchased last year. This compares with 743 plates sold in 2000, the first year the Arts Trust plate entered the market, and represents more than a 170% increase in sales.

"Out of 42 special issue plates available in Indiana, our plate jumped from 27th in 2000 to 13th most popular in 2001," said IAC Executive Director Dorothy L. Ilgen. "With very little money available for advertising and marketing, I think these results are testimony to the support for the arts in Indiana."

Combined sales and renewals for the Arts Trust plate have generated more than \$69,000 for the IAC's Cultural Trust Fund, which was signed into law by Governor Frank O'Bannon in 1996 as a method to augment IAC appropriations for arts programming and services.



The Arts Trust license plate may be purchased at any BMV branch office, by mail, or from any BMV self-service kiosk. The purchase or renewal of each \$40 plate generates \$25 for the Indiana Arts Commission Cultural Trust Fund.

BMV increases '02 fees

A general \$3 fee increase for all license plate purchases went into effect January 1, 2002 bringing the total cost of the Arts Trust license plate up to \$40.

BMV also instituted a one-time \$30 fee for all low numbered (1-100) special issue plates. The first purchase of such an Arts Trust plate during a new plate cycle will total \$70. During the remaining four years of the plate cycle the cost will be \$40.

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NEA Chair Hammond dies unexpectedly

Within days taking leadership of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Michael P. Hammond died unexpectedly.

Hammond, 69, took office January 22. He was a distinguished educator, composer, conductor, and supporter of the arts.

Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts (AFTA) said, "I was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of Michael Hammond. All of us at Americans for the Arts had been buoyed by his appointment as chairman, because of his lifelong devotion to the arts and to arts education."

Eileen B. Mason will serve as acting chair of the agency until a new presidential appointee is in place. Mason began her tenure with the NEA in November, 2001. Previously she served on the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Council in Maryland, and has worked as a policy maker at two federal agencies.